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U. S. Patent and Trademark Office; U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 31238-225900  U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/560072</div>
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2004/009181	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 3 June 2004	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 4 July 2003
TITLE OF INVENTION    CONTINUOUS VACUUM CARBURIZING PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR METAL WIRE, METAL STRIP OR METAL PIPE		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US    Ishida et al.		

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

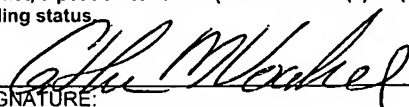
1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
  - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

**Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:**

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A preliminary amendment.
14. ☒ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information: (a) International Search Report; (b) Formal Drawings 4 sheets (Figs. 1-7) (b) Return Receipt Postcard

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/560072</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2004/009181		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 31238-225900	
The following fees have been submitted				CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
21.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basic national fee .....	\$300	\$ 300.00	
22.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Examination fee			
If international preliminary examination report prepared by USPTO and all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....				\$100	
All other situations .....				\$200	
23.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Search fee			
Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the international application to the USPTO as an International Searching Authority .....				\$100	
International Search Report prepared and provided to the Office .....				\$400	
All other situations .....				\$500	
<b>TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 =</b>				<b>\$ 900.00</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.					
Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE		
- 100 =	/50 =		x \$250.00		
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	- 20 =		x	\$	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =		x	\$ 0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(s) (if applicable)				\$	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$ 900.00</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Fees above are reduced by 1/2.				\$	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$ 900.00</b>	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).				\$	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$ 900.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21 (h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 40.00	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$ 940.00</b>	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				Amount to be charged:	\$
<p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>22-0261</u> in the amount of \$ <u>\$940.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>22-0261</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</p> <p>Date: <u>December 9, 2005</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">         SIGNATURE: Catherine M. Voorhees        NAME: _____        CUSTOMER NUMBER: 26694        REGISTRATION NUMBER: <u>33,074</u> </p>					